

Talking points
GE Aviation announcement
Tuesday, May 29, 2007
Batesville

This is a significant day for Mississippi because it represents our state's entering into a new high tech partnership with one of the world's most outstanding companies.

Today, I am pleased to announce General Electric Aviation has selected a site for its advanced jet engine component manufacturing facility – and the site is Batesville, Mississippi.

Workers at this plant will fabricate advanced jet engine composites for GE commercial and military engines in what has been called the most advanced manufacturing process done by GE anywhere in the world.

We are on a fast track. GE breaks ground this summer, starts hiring in 2008 and the plant goes operational in 2009.

We expect a workforce of 100-plus people within 18 months of operation, bringing GE competitive wages and benefits, along with advanced, high technology capability, to Mississippi.

Significantly, GE is collaborating with Mississippi State University in preparation for this new facility, and that important research work will grow in the future.

These are precisely the kinds of higher-paying, higher-skilled jobs demanded by the world's top manufacturers.

To have the leader in advanced composites for jet engines bring such specialized high technology to Panola County puts Mississippi on the ground floor of an exciting growth business, and is a testament to the skills of our people and the outstanding nature of our educational institutions.

(Introduce Scott Donnelly, president & CEO of GE Aviation)

Economic development is a team sport and the corporate side of our team working to bring GE to Batesville is headed by a visionary leader I am pleased to introduce now:

Scott Donnelly, president and CEO of GE Aviation.

(Scott Donnelly speaks)